

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (Withdrawn) A vector comprising a first open reading frame which includes a recognition site for a first restriction enzyme that generates a 3' TA overhang and a recognition site for a second restriction enzyme that is not in the open reading frame generates blunt ends, which vector, once digested with the first and second restriction enzymes and ligated to a DNA fragment comprising a second open reading flanked by an end generated by *SgfI* and a third restriction enzyme which has infrequent restriction sites in cDNAs or open reading frames from at least one species and generates blunt ends, yields a recombinant vector comprising a third open reading frame comprising the first and second open reading frames, which third open reading frame encodes a fusion peptide or protein.

14. (Withdrawn) A vector comprising a ribosome binding site which optionally overlaps by one nucleotide with a *SgfI* recognition site and a recognition site for a first restriction enzyme that generates blunt ends, which vector, once digested with *SgfI* and the first restriction enzyme and ligated to a DNA fragment comprising an open reading frame encoding a peptide or polypeptide flanked by

5' CGCCATGX₁Y₁ (SEQ ID NO:2)

3' TAGCGGTACX₂Y₂ (SEQ ID NO:71)

and a blunt end generated by a second restriction enzyme that has infrequent restriction sites in cDNAs or open reading frames from at least one species and generates blunt ends, yields a recombinant vector which encodes the peptide or polypeptide, wherein X₁ is the first codon which is 3' to the start codon for the open reading frame, wherein X₂ is the complement of X₁, wherein Y₁ is the remainder of the open reading frame, and wherein Y₂ is the complement of Y₁.

15. (Withdrawn) A support comprising a plurality of recombinant vectors, two or more of which comprise an open reading frame for a different polypeptide, wherein at least one recombinant vector comprises a promoter and a first open reading frame which is flanked by two exchange sites, wherein the exchange sites are formed by ligation of

a vector comprising the promoter which is 5' to a recognition site for a first restriction enzyme that generates a 3' TA overhang which is 5' to a recognition site for a first restriction enzyme which generates blunt ends, which vector is digested with the first and second

restriction enzymes, and

a DNA sequence comprising the first open reading frame flanked by an end generated by *SgfI* and an end generated by a third restriction enzyme which has infrequent restriction sites in cDNAs or open reading frames from at least one species and generates blunt ends.

16. (Withdrawn) The support of claim 15 wherein the vector further comprises a second open reading frame 3' to the promoter which second open reading frame includes the recognition site for the first restriction enzyme, which second open reading frame, when ligated to the first open reading frame, forms a third open reading frame which encodes a fusion peptide or protein.

17. (Withdrawn) The support of claim 15 wherein ligation generates the following sequence in the recombinant vector AAGGAGCGATCGCYATG (SEQ ID NO:69) or $X_1X_2X_3GCGATCGCCATG$ (SEQ ID NO:70), wherein $X_1X_2X_3$, X_2X_3G or X_3GC is a codon which is not a stop codon, and wherein Y is A, T, G or C.

18. (Withdrawn) The support of claim 15 wherein ligation generates the following sequence in the recombinant vector $X_1X_2X_3GTTTY_1Y_2$, wherein $X_1X_2X_3$ is a codon in an open reading frame which is not a stop codon and Y_1 and Y_2 each =A, $Y_1 = A$ and $Y_2 = G$ or $Y_1 = G$ and $Y_2 = A$.

19. (Withdrawn) The support of claim 15 wherein ligation generates the following sequence in the recombinant vector $X_1X_2X_3GTTTY_1Y_2$, wherein $X_1X_2X_3G$ or X_3GT is a codon in an open reading frame which is not a stop codon and Y_1 is not A when Y_2 is A or G, or Y_1 is not G when Y_2 is A.

20. (Withdrawn) A support comprising a plurality of recombinant vectors, two or more of which comprise an open reading frame for a different polypeptide, wherein at least one recombinant vector comprises a promoter and a first open reading frame comprising a second open reading frame and one or more codons which are in-frame with the second open reading frame, wherein the second open reading frame is flanked by two exchange sites, wherein the exchange sites are formed by ligation of

a DNA sequence comprising the second open reading frame which includes a *PmeI* recognition site and is flanked at the 5' end by a recognition site for a first restriction enzyme that generates complementary single-strand DNA overhangs, which DNA sequence is digested with *PmeI* and the first restriction enzyme, and

a vector comprising a blunt end at the 5' end which is 5' to the one or more in-frame codons and the promoter which is 5' to an end generated by a second restriction enzyme which generates single-strand DNA overhangs which are complementary to the single-strand DNA overhangs generated by the first restriction enzyme.

21. (Withdrawn) The support of claim 20 wherein the exchange site formed by blunt end ligation includes $N_1N_2N_3GTTTN_4N_5$, wherein $N_1N_2N_3GTTT$ is a sequence from the 3' end of the DNA sequence, wherein if $N_1N_2N_3$ do not code for a stop codon, N_4 and $N_5 = A$, or $N_4 = A$ and $N_5 = G$ or $N_4 = G$ and $N_5 = A$, or wherein $N_1N_2N_3$ code for a stop codon.

22. (Withdrawn) A support comprising a plurality of recombinant vectors, two or more of which comprise an open reading frame for a different polypeptide, wherein at least one recombinant vector comprises a promoter and an open reading frame which is flanked by two exchange sites, wherein the exchange sites are formed by ligation of

a DNA sequence comprising the open reading frame which is flanked by at least two restriction enzyme sites for a first restriction enzyme which is a hapaxotermistic restriction enzyme, which DNA sequence is digested with the first restriction enzyme to generate a first DNA fragment flanked by a first pair of non-self complementary single-strand DNA overhangs, and

a vector comprising the promoter and non-essential DNA sequences that are flanked by two restriction enzyme sites for a second restriction enzyme which is a hapaxotermistic restriction enzyme, which vector is digested with the second restriction enzyme to generate a second DNA fragment which lacks non-essential DNA sequences and is flanked by a second pair of non-self complementary single-strand DNA overhangs, wherein each of the second pair of the non-self-complementary DNA overhangs is complementary to only one of the single-strand DNA overhangs of the first pair of non-self complementary single-strand DNA overhangs.

23. (Withdrawn) The support of anyone of claims 15 or 20 to 22 which is multi-well plate.

24. (Withdrawn) The support of anyone of claims 15 or 20 to 22 wherein the plurality of recombinant vectors each encode a different polypeptide from the same organism.

25. (Withdrawn) The support of anyone of claims 15 or 20 to 22 wherein the plurality of recombinant vectors encode orthologous polypeptides.

26. (Withdrawn) The support of anyone of claims 15 or 20 to 22 wherein the plurality of

recombinant vectors encode paralogous polypeptides.

27. (Withdrawn) A method to prepare a support comprising a plurality of recombinant vectors or recombinant cells, comprising:

a) selecting a plurality of recombinant vectors or recombinant cells comprising recombinant vectors, wherein two or more of the recombinant vectors comprise an open reading frame for a different polypeptide, wherein at least one recombinant vector comprises a promoter and a first open reading frame which is flanked by two exchange sites, wherein the exchange sites are formed by ligation of

a vector comprising the promoter which is 5' to a recognition site for a first restriction enzyme that generates a 3' TA overhang, which is 5' to a recognition site for a second restriction enzyme which generates blunt ends, which vector is digested with the first and second restriction enzymes, and

a DNA sequence comprising the first open reading frame flanked by an end generated by *SgfI* and an end generated by a third restriction enzyme which has infrequent restriction sites in cDNAs or open reading frames from at least one species and generates blunt ends; and

b) introducing the selected recombinant vectors or recombinant cells to one or more receptacles of the support.

28.-35. (Canceled).

36. (Withdrawn) A method to prepare a plurality of mutagenized recombinant vectors, comprising:

a) providing DNAs comprising a plurality of mutagenized open reading frames flanked by a *SgfI* recognition site and a site for a first restriction enzyme which has infrequent restriction sites in cDNAs or open reading frames from at least one species and generates blunt ends; and

b) digesting the DNAs with *SgfI* and the first restriction enzyme and ligating the digested DNAs to a vector comprising a promoter which is 5' to a recognition site for a second restriction enzyme that generates 3' TA overhangs which is 5' to a recognition site for a third restriction enzyme which generates blunt ends, which vector is digested with the second and third restriction enzymes, to yield a plurality of mutagenized recombinant vectors.

37. (Withdrawn) A method to prepare a plurality of mutagenized recombinant vectors, comprising:

a) providing DNAs comprising a plurality of mutagenized open reading frames flanked by a recognition site for a first restriction enzyme that generates a 3' TA overhang and site for a

second restriction enzyme which has infrequent restriction sites in cDNAs or open reading frames from at least one species and generates blunt ends; and

b) digesting the DNAs with the first and second restriction enzymes and ligating the digested DNAs to a vector comprising a promoter which is 5' to a *SgfI* recognition site which is 5' to a recognition site for a third restriction enzyme which generates blunt ends, which vector is digested with *SgfI* and the third restriction enzyme, to yield a plurality of mutagenized recombinant vectors.

38. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 37 wherein the first restriction enzyme is *PmeI*.

39. (Withdrawn) A method to prepare a plurality of mutagenized recombinant vectors, comprising:

a) providing DNAs comprising a plurality of mutagenized open reading frames flanked by two restriction enzyme sites for a first restriction enzyme which is a hapaxotermistic restriction enzyme and generates a first pair of non-self complementary single-strand DNA overhangs; and

b) digesting the DNAs with the first restriction enzyme and ligating the digested DNAs to a vector comprising a promoter and non-essential DNA sequences flanked by two restriction enzyme sites for a second restriction enzyme which is a hapaxotermistic restriction enzyme, which vector is digested with the second restriction enzyme generating a DNA fragment which lacks non-essential DNA sequences but comprises a second pair of non-self complementary single-strand DNA overhangs, wherein each of the second pair of the non-self-complementary DNA overhangs is complementary to only one of the single-strand DNA overhangs of the first pair of non-self complementary single-strand DNA overhangs, to yield a plurality of mutagenized recombinant vectors.

40. (Withdrawn) A support comprising a plurality of mutagenized recombinant vectors prepared by the method of anyone of claims 36 to 39.

41. (Withdrawn) A library of recombinant cells comprising recombinant vectors, two or more of which recombinant vectors comprise an open reading frame for a different polypeptide, wherein at least one recombinant vector comprises a promoter and a first open reading frame which is flanked by two exchange sites, wherein the exchange sites are formed by ligation of

a vector comprising the promoter which is 5' to a recognition site for a first restriction enzyme that generates a 3' TA overhang which is 5' to a recognition site for a second restriction enzyme which generates blunt ends, which vector is digested with the first and second restriction enzymes, and

a DNA sequence comprising the first open reading frame flanked by an end generated by *SgfI* and an end generated by a third restriction enzyme which has infrequent restriction sites in cDNAs or open reading frames from at least one species and generates blunt ends.

42. (Withdrawn) A library of recombinant vectors, two or more of which recombinant vectors comprise an open reading frame for a different polypeptide, wherein at least one recombinant vector comprises a promoter and a first open reading frame which is flanked by two exchange sites, wherein the exchange sites are formed by ligation of

a vector comprising the promoter which is 5' to a recognition site for a first restriction enzyme that generates 3' TA overhang which is 5' to a recognition site for a second restriction enzyme which generates blunt ends, which vector is digested with the first and second restriction enzymes, and

a DNA sequence comprising the first open reading frame flanked by an end generated by *SgfI* and an end generated by a third restriction enzyme which has infrequent restriction sites in cDNAs or open reading frames from at least one species and generates blunt ends.

43. (Withdrawn) A library of recombinant cells comprising recombinant vectors, two or more of which recombinant vectors comprise an open reading frame for a different polypeptide, wherein at least one recombinant vector comprises a promoter and a first open reading frame comprising a second open reading frame and one or more codons which are in-frame with the second open reading frame, wherein the second open reading frame is flanked by two exchange sites, wherein the exchange sites are formed by ligation of

a DNA sequence comprising the second open reading frame which includes a *PmeI* recognition site and is flanked at the 5' end by a recognition site for a first restriction enzyme that generates complementary single-strand DNA overhangs, which DNA is digested with *PmeI* and the first restriction enzyme, and

a vector comprising a blunt end at the 5' end which is 5' to the one or more in-frame codons and the promoter which is 5' to an end generated by a second restriction enzyme which generates single-strand DNA overhangs which are complementary to the single-strand DNA overhangs generated by the first restriction enzyme.

44. (Withdrawn) A library of recombinant vectors, two or more of which recombinant vectors comprise an open reading frame for a different polypeptide, wherein at least one recombinant vector comprises a promoter and a first open reading frame comprising a second open reading frame and one or more codons which are in-frame with the second open reading frame, wherein the second open reading frame is flanked by two exchange sites, wherein the exchange sites

are formed by ligation of

a DNA sequence comprising the second open reading frame which includes a *PmeI* recognition site and is flanked at the 5' end by a recognition site for a first restriction enzyme that generates complementary single-strand DNA overhangs, which DNA is digested with *PmeI* and the first restriction enzyme, and

a vector comprising a blunt end at the 5' end which is 5' to the one or more codons and the promoter which is 5' to an end generated by a second restriction enzyme which generates single-strand DNA overhangs which are complementary to the single-strand DNA overhangs generated by the first restriction enzyme.

45. (Withdrawn) A library of recombinant cells comprising recombinant vectors, two or more of which recombinant vectors comprise an open reading frame for a different polypeptide, wherein at least one recombinant vector comprises a promoter and an open reading frame which is flanked by two exchange sites, wherein the exchange sites are formed by ligation of

a DNA sequence comprising the open reading frame which is flanked by at least two restriction enzyme sites for a first restriction enzyme which is a hapaxotermistic restriction enzyme, which DNA sequence is digested with the first restriction enzyme to generate a first DNA fragment flanked by a first pair of non-self complementary single-strand DNA overhangs, and

a vector comprising the promoter and non-essential DNA sequences that are flanked by two restriction enzyme sites for a second restriction enzyme which is a hapaxotermistic restriction enzyme, which vector is digested with the second restriction enzyme to generate a second DNA fragment which lacks non-essential DNA sequences and is flanked by a second pair of non-self complementary single-strand DNA overhangs, wherein each of the second pair of the non-self-complementary DNA overhangs is complementary to only one of the single-strand DNA overhangs of the first pair of non-self complementary single-strand DNA overhangs.

46. (Withdrawn) A library of recombinant vectors, two or more of which recombinant vectors comprise an open reading frame for a different polypeptide, wherein at least one recombinant vector comprises a promoter and an open reading frame which is flanked by two exchange sites, wherein the exchange sites are formed by ligation of

a DNA sequence comprising the open reading frame which is flanked by at least two restriction enzyme sites for a first restriction enzyme which is a hapaxotermistic restriction enzyme, which DNA sequence is digested with the first restriction enzyme to generate a first DNA fragment flanked by a first pair of non-self complementary single-strand DNA overhangs, and

a vector comprising the promoter and non-essential DNA sequences that are flanked by two restriction enzyme sites for a second restriction enzyme which is a hapaxotermistic restriction enzyme, which vector is digested with the second restriction enzyme to generate a second DNA fragment which lacks non-essential DNA sequences and is flanked by a second pair of non-self complementary single-strand DNA overhangs, wherein each of the second pair of the non-self-complementary DNA overhangs is complementary to only one of the single-strand DNA overhangs of the first pair of non-self complementary single-strand DNA overhangs.

47. (Withdrawn) A library of recombinant cells comprising recombinant vectors, a plurality of which comprise mutagenized recombinant vectors comprising mutagenized open reading frames of a selected open reading frame, wherein at least one mutagenized recombinant vector comprises a promoter and a mutagenized open reading frame which is flanked by two exchange sites, wherein the exchange sites are formed by ligation of

a vector comprising the promoter which is 5' to a recognition site for a first restriction enzyme that generates a 3' TA overhang which is 5' to a recognition site for a second restriction enzyme which generates blunt ends, which vector is digested with the first and second restriction enzymes, and

a DNA sequence comprising the mutagenized open reading frame flanked by an end generated by *SgfI* and an end generated by a third restriction enzyme which has infrequent restriction sites in cDNAs or open reading frames from at least one species and generates blunt ends.

48. (Withdrawn) A library of recombinant vectors, a plurality of which recombinant vectors comprise mutagenized recombinant vectors comprising a mutagenized open reading frames of a selected open reading frame, wherein at least one mutagenized recombinant vector comprises a promoter and a mutagenized open reading frame which is flanked by two exchange sites, wherein the exchange sites are formed by ligation of

a vector comprising the promoter which is 5' to a recognition site for a first restriction enzyme that generates a 3' TA overhang which is 5' to a recognition site for a second restriction enzyme which generates blunt ends, which vector is digested with the first and second restriction enzymes, and

a DNA sequence comprising the mutagenized open reading frame flanked by an end generated by *SgfI* and an end generated by a third restriction enzyme which has infrequent restriction sites in cDNAs or open reading frames from at least one species and generates blunt ends.

49-66. (Canceled).

67. (Withdrawn) The library of anyone of claims 41 to 42 and 47 to 48 wherein the at least one recombinant vector comprises a further open reading frame flanked by two exchange sites, wherein the exchange sites are formed by ligation of

the recombinant vector which comprises a recognition site for a fourth and a fifth restriction enzyme site 3' to the recognition site for the restriction enzyme which generate blunt ends, wherein the fourth restriction enzyme generates a 3' TA overhang and is different than the first restriction enzyme, and wherein the fifth restriction enzyme generates blunt ends, which vector is digested with the fourth and fifth restriction enzymes, and

a DNA sequence comprising the further open reading frame flanked by an end generated by *SgfI* and a sixth restriction enzyme which has infrequent restriction sites in cDNAs or open reading frames from at least one species and generates blunt ends.

68 -74. (Canceled).

75. (Currently amended) A vector for directional cloning and expression comprising a recognition site for a first restriction enzyme that is *SgfI* which is 5' to a recognition site for a second restriction enzyme that is *PmeI* or *EcoI* ~~which generates blunt ends~~ and comprising a promoter, a selectable marker gene and sequences for replication and/or maintenance of the vector in a host cell, wherein the selectable marker gene and sequences for replication and/or maintenance are 5' to the recognition site for the first restriction enzyme and 3' to the recognition site for the second restriction enzyme, wherein the promoter is 5' to the recognition site for the first restriction enzyme, wherein the promoter is positioned so that transcription of ~~an~~ a fragment open reading frame, introduced by ligating a DNA fragment with the open reading frame and with compatible ends to the ends generated by digestion of the vector with the first and second restriction enzymes, is initiated at the promoter, wherein if the vector has ~~an~~ a vector open reading frame that includes sequences 5' to the recognition site for the first restriction enzyme but 3' to the promoter, the sequence for the vector open reading frame that is 3' to the promoter is positioned to be in frame with the fragment open reading frame ~~in the DNA fragment~~ after ligation of the DNA fragment with the compatible ends and the ends generated by digestion of the vector with the first and second restriction enzymes, and wherein the compatible ends are generated by an enzyme that generates a 3' T A overhang and a third restriction enzyme which has infrequent restriction sites in cDNAs or open reading frames from at least one species and generates a blunt end.

76. (Previously Presented) The vector of claim 75 wherein the second and third restriction enzymes are the same.

77. (Previously Presented) The vector of claim 75 wherein the second and third restriction enzymes are different.

78. (Currently amended) The vector of claim 75 wherein the second restriction enzyme is *PmeI*, *EcoRV* or *BalI*.

79. (Canceled)

80. (Currently amended) The vector of claim 75 wherein the second restriction enzyme is *AluI*, *BalI*, *BfrBI*, *BsaAI*, *BsaBI*, *BsrBI*, *BtrI*, *Cac8I*, *CdiI*, *CviJI*, *CviRI*, *Eco47III*, *Eco78I*, *EcoICRI*, *EcoRV*, *FnuDII*, *FspAI*, *HaeI*, *HaeIII*, *Hpy8I*, *LpnI*, *MlyI*, *MslI*, *MstI*, *NaeI*, *NruI*, *NspBII*, *OliI*, *PmaCI*, *PmeI*, *PshAI*, *PsiI*, *PvuII*, *RsaI*, *ScaI*, *SmaI*, *SnaBI*, *SrfI*, *SspI*, *SspD51*, *StuI*, *XbaI*, *XmnI*, or *ZraI*.

81. (Currently amended) The vector of claim 75 which has the vector open reading frame that includes sequences 5' to the recognition site for the first restriction enzyme.

~~83.~~ 82. (Currently Amended) The vector of claim 75 which comprises an appropriately positioned ribosome binding site 5' to the nucleotide cleaved by the first restriction enzyme.

83. (Previously Presented) The vector of claim 75 wherein the ligation of the 3' TA overhang and the end generated by *SgfI* generates the following sequence AAGGAGCGATCGCYATG (SEQ ID NO:69) or $X_1X_2X_3GCGATCGCCATG$ (SEQ ID NO:70), wherein X_1X_3 , X_2X_3G or X_3GC is a codon which is not a stop codon, and wherein Y is A, T, G or C.

84. (Currently amended) The vector of claim 75 comprising the fragment open reading frame, wherein ligation of the blunt ends generates the following sequence $X_1X_2X_3GTTTY_1Y_2$, wherein $X_1X_2X_3$ is a codon in an open reading frame which is not a stop codon and Y_1 and Y_2 each = A, $Y_1 = A$ and $Y_2 = G$ or $Y_1 = G$ and $Y_2 = A$.

85. (Currently amended) The vector of claim 75 comprising the fragment open reading frame, wherein ligation of the blunt ends generates the following sequence $X_1X_2X_3GTTTY_1Y_2$, wherein $X_1X_2X_3$, X_2X_3G or X_3GT is a codon in an open reading frame which is not a stop codon and Y_1 is

not A when Y_2 is A or G, or Y_1 is not G when Y_2 is A.

86. (Currently amended) The vector of claim 75 wherein the vector has ~~an~~ the vector open reading frame and the vector open reading frame encodes for a peptide or polypeptide that is 3' to the promoter and is positioned so as to be in frame with the fragment open reading frame ~~in the DNA fragment~~ after ligation.

87. (Currently amended) The vector of claim 75 wherein the vector does not have ~~an~~ the vector open reading frame that is 3' to the promoter so as to be in frame with the fragment open reading frame ~~in the DNA fragment~~ after ligation.

88. (Previously Presented) The vector of claim 86 wherein the ligation generates the following sequence 5' *GGAGCGATCGCCATG* 3' (SEQ ID NO:93), wherein the italicized nucleotides are from the vector.

89. (Previously Presented) The vector of claim 88 wherein ligation of the blunt ends generates one of the following sequences 5' *GTTTAAAC* 3' (SEQ ID NO:95), 5' *GTTTAT*3' (SEQ ID NO:96) or 5' *GTTTCC* 3' (SEQ ID NO:97), wherein the italicized nucleotides are from the vector.

90. (Canceled)

91. (Canceled)

92. (Canceled)

93. (Canceled)

94. (Canceled)

95. (Canceled)

96. (Canceled)

97. (Canceled)

98. (Currently amended) The vector of claim 90 75 wherein the promoter is a eukaryotic promoter.

99. (Canceled)

100. (Canceled)

101. (Canceled)

102. (Canceled)

103. (Canceled)